

Table 5. Number, percent distribution, and annual rate of ambulatory care visits by the 35 principal reasons for visit most frequently mentioned by patients, and setting: United States, 1996

Principal reason for visit and RVC code ¹	Combined settings		Total	Physician offices	Outpatient departments	Emergency departments	Total	Physician offices	Outpatient departments	Emergency departments
	Number of visits in thousands	Percent distribution					Number of visits per 100 persons ²			
All visits	892,025	100.0	100.0	82.3	7.5	10.1	337.3	277.8	25.4	34.2
General medical examination X100	54,714	6.1	100.0	92.6	7.2	*	20.7	19.2	1.5	*
Progress visit, not otherwise specified T800	37,533	4.2	100.0	76.7	22.9	*	14.2	10.9	3.2	*
Routine prenatal examination X205	27,057	3.0	100.0	88.5	10.8	0.7	10.2	9.1	1.1	0.1
Cough S440	25,804	2.9	100.0	88.4	4.2	7.5	9.8	8.6	0.4	0.7
Symptoms referable to throat S455	21,009	2.4	100.0	85.5	5.6	8.9	7.9	6.8	0.4	0.7
Postoperative visit T205	20,043	2.2	100.0	93.1	6.0	0.9	7.6	7.1	0.5	0.1
Stomach and abdominal pain, cramps, and spasms S545	17,970	2.0	100.0	65.2	6.3	28.4	6.8	4.4	0.4	1.9
Well baby examination X105	16,464	1.8	100.0	92.5	7.4	*	6.2	5.8	0.5	*
Fever S010	15,440	1.7	100.0	69.4	3.9	26.7	5.8	4.1	0.2	1.6
Back symptoms S905	14,162	1.6	100.0	80.8	4.9	14.3	5.4	4.3	0.3	0.8
Skin rash S860	13,985	1.6	100.0	85.8	5.9	8.3	5.3	4.5	0.3	0.4
Earache or ear infection S355	13,776	1.5	100.0	82.2	5.5	12.3	5.2	4.3	0.3	0.6
Chest pain and related symptoms S050	13,328	1.5	100.0	61.4	3.6	35.0	5.0	3.1	0.2	1.8
Nasal congestion S400	12,325	1.4	100.0	91.2	3.5	5.3	4.7	4.3	0.2	0.2
Knee symptoms S925	11,241	1.3	100.0	87.4	4.8	7.8	4.3	3.7	0.2	0.3
Headache, pain in head S210	10,994	1.2	100.0	73.9	4.5	21.6	4.2	3.1	0.2	0.9
Vision dysfunctions S305	10,810	1.2	100.0	96.3	3.0	*	4.1	3.9	0.1	*
Hypertension D510	10,801	1.2	100.0	90.0	7.8	2.2	4.1	3.7	0.3	0.1
Depression S110	9,142	1.0	100.0	89.4	7.9	2.8	3.5	3.1	*0.3	0.1
Blood pressure test X320	8,865	1.0	100.0	96.5	3.2	*	3.4	3.2	0.1	*
Medications, other and unspecified kinds T115	8,605	1.0	100.0	87.7	9.0	3.3	3.3	2.9	0.3	0.1
Neck symptoms S900	8,465	0.9	100.0	82.7	4.0	13.3	3.2	2.6	0.1	0.4
Head cold, upper respiratory infection (coryza) S445	7,884	0.9	100.0	85.5	8.1	6.4	3.0	2.5	*0.2	0.2
Shoulder symptoms S940	7,847	0.9	100.0	86.8	3.7	9.5	3.0	2.6	0.1	0.3
Diabetes mellitus D205	7,261	0.8	100.0	91.3	7.4	*	2.7	2.5	0.2	*
Low back symptoms S910	7,248	0.8	100.0	79.0	5.3	15.7	2.7	2.2	0.1	0.4
Leg symptoms S920	6,990	0.8	100.0	80.4	7.1	12.5	2.6	2.1	0.2	0.3
Vertigo-dizziness S225	6,840	0.8	100.0	75.9	4.9	19.1	2.6	2.0	0.1	0.5
Shortness of breath S415	6,684	0.7	100.0	62.6	2.7	34.7	2.5	1.6	0.1	0.9
Physical exam required for school or employment A100	6,556	0.7	100.0	92.8	6.7	*	2.5	2.3	0.2	*
Skin lesion S865	6,184	0.7	100.0	91.4	5.0	3.7	2.3	2.1	0.1	0.1
Foot and toe symptoms S935	5,994	0.7	100.0	77.7	5.6	16.7	2.3	1.8	0.1	0.4
Hand and finger symptoms S860	5,851	0.7	100.0	77.4	4.3	18.3	2.2	1.7	0.1	0.4
Acne or pimples S830	5,711	0.6	100.0	98.1	1.8	*	2.2	2.1	0.0	*
Other and unspecified symptoms referable to ears S365	5,587	0.6	100.0	91.0	6.8	2.2	2.1	1.9	0.1	0.0
All other reasons	422,854	47.4	100.0	79.9	7.8	12.2	159.9	127.8	12.5	19.6

* Figure does not meet standard of reliability or precision.

0.0 Quantity more than zero but less than 0.05.

¹Based on A Reason for Visit Classification for Ambulatory Care (RVC) (5).²Based on U.S. Bureau of the Census monthly postcensal estimates of the civilian noninstitutionalized population of the United States as of July 1, 1996. Figures are consistent with an unpublished hard-copy national population estimates release package PPL-57 (U.S. Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin: 1990–1996) and have been adjusted for net underenumeration using the 1990 National Population Adjustment Matrix.

NOTE: Numbers may not add to totals because of rounding.